

c. Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the formal drawing sheet with Figures 5A and 5B with the attached Replacement Sheet.

e. **Remarks**

Objections to Drawings

The Replacement Sheet amends Figure 5A corrects an obvious spelling error by replacing “umtapered” by “untapered” in the box for step 72. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out this error.

Objection to Claim 2

At line 2, claim 22, the method recites a “receiving” act. This recitation of a “receiving” act provides antecedent basis for reciting “the receiving” at line 2 of dependent claim 25. Thus, the objection to claim 25 should be withdrawn.

Allowances of Claims 10 – 21

Claim 10 has been amended to clarify the antecedent basis for “the tapered end portion” at line 2.

At page 5, the Office Action states that “Claims 10 – 21 are allowed. These claims should remain allowable as presented herein.

Rejections of and Objections to other Claims

At page 4, the Office Action states that “Claims 2 – 7 and 24 ... would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Amended claim 1 includes the limitations of original claims 1 and 2 and thus, should be allowable.

Pending claims 3 – 5 and 8 – 9 should be allowable, at least, by their dependence on amended claim 1.

As amended claim 6 corrects evident typing and grammar errors in original claim 6 and incorporates the limitations of original claim 1. Thus, amended claim 6 should be allowable.

Pending claim 7 should be allowable, at least, by its dependence on amended claim 6.

Amended claim 22 includes the limitations of original claims 22 – 24 and should thus, be allowable.

Pending claim 25 should be allowable, at least, by its dependence on amended claim 22.

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Conclusion

Applicant requests allowance of the claims as presented herein.

In the event of any non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Lucent Technologies Deposit**

10 **Account No. 12-2325** to correct the error.

Respectfully,



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